

MINES OFFICE, HALIFAX, AUG. 20, 1903.

*The Honourable Arthur Drysdale, K. C., M. P., P. Commissioner of
Public Works and Mines,*

SIR,—I beg to hand you herewith the text of an Act passed at the last session of the Legislature, entitled "An Act to encourage Deep Mining in the Gold Fields of Nova Scotia," being Chapter 9 of the Acts of 1903.

WHEREAS, it is desirable that deep mining should be encouraged in the gold fields of Nova Scotia :

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows :

1. The Governor-in-Council shall and they are authorized to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to assist in the sinking of not more than three deep shafts in the gold fields of the province.

2. Such shafts shall be sunk in such places as may be determined upon by the Governor-in-Council, and shall be under the direction of the Inspector of Mines, and the sinking shall be under such regulations as may be made by the Governor-in-Council.

3. The Governor-in-Council shall only assist in the sinking of a shaft below 500 feet from the surface, and to a vertical depth not exceeding 2000 feet, and in such assistance the government shall not bear more than half the expense of the actual sinking.

4. The Governor-in-Council is authorized in carrying out the objects of this Act to enter into arrangements with any mining company, corporation, or person carrying on the business of gold mining, or with any person, firm or corporation that may hereafter enter into the business of gold mining.

The subject of the working of mines in Nova Scotia to depths commensurate with those reached in gold districts in other countries, has for some time received the consideration of your honourable Government. Hitherto the practice of local mining enterprise in this Province has been to work out such pay streaks or rich portions of veins as happened to show on the surface, and then to abandon the veins. This system of mining, however pardonable in the beginning, is inexcusable in view of the present advanced knowledge acquired by mining operations throughout the world.